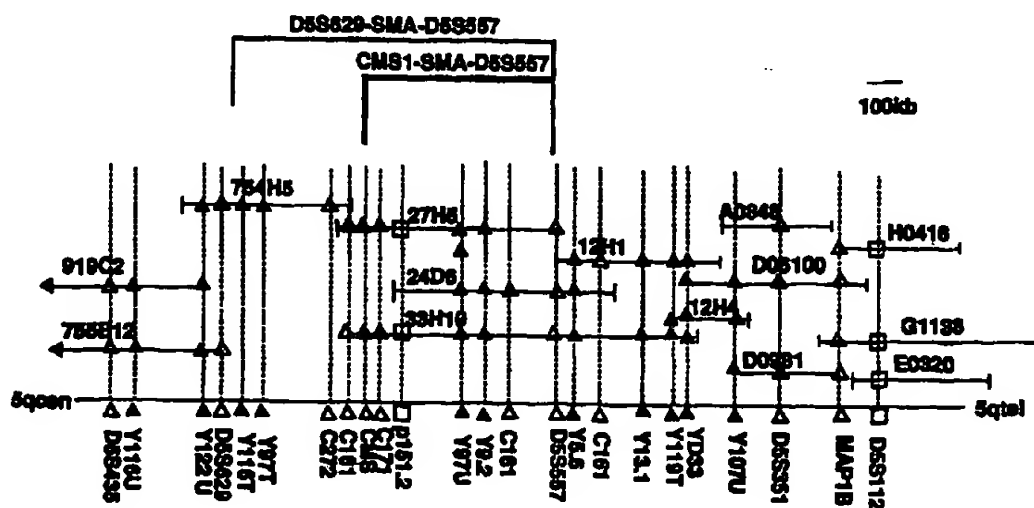




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(71) Applicants (for all designated States except US):	THE UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA [CA/CA]; 550 Cumberland Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 6N5 (CA). RESEARCH DEVELOP- MENT CORPORATION OF JAPAN [JP/JP]; Kawaguchi Centre Building, 4-1-8, Honcho, Kawaguchi-shi, Saitama 332 (JP).		
(72) Inventors; and		Published	
(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only):	MacKENZIE, Alex, E. [CA/CA]; 35 Rockliffe Way, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 1A3 (CA). KORNELUK, Robert, G. [CA/CA]; 1901 Tweed Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario K1G 2L8 (CA). MAHADEVAN, Mani, S. [CA/CA]; Apartment 4, 818 South Grammon Road, Madison, WI 53719 (US). McLEAN, Michael [CA/CA]; 1 Halesmanor Court, Guelph, Ontario N1G 4E1 (CA). ROY, Natalie [CA/CA]; 6 McLeod Street, Ottawa, Ontario K2P 0Z5 (CA). IKEDA, Joh-E [JP/JP]; 31-1, Kamineguro 5- chome, Meguro-ku, Tokyo 153 (JP).	With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.	

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(57) Abstract

5. The gene for the autosomal recessive neurodegenerative disorder Spinal Muscular Atrophy has been mapped to a region of chromosome 5. The gene encodes a protein having homology with apoptosis inhibitor proteins of viruses so that the encoded protein has been labelled as a neuronal apoptosis inhibitor protein (NAIP). A deletion in the (NAIP) domain was identified in persons with Type I, II and III Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) and not in the normal non-SMA population.